

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22 and 39 are amended, and claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23-38, 40 and 41 retain their original language. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-41 will be pending.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 12, 13, and 23-38, and recognition that claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17-19, 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter.

Objection to Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17-19, 21 and 22

Applicants have amended allowable claims 6 and 19 into independent form by including all features of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 10 and 11 have been amended to depend from claim 6. Claims 17, 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 19. Claim 18 remains dependent on claim 17. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17-18, 21 and 22 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 19 is amended into independent form, but does not include all of the features of intervening claim 17. Claim 19 is nevertheless believed to be allowable because none of the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the recited contraction cone.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 14-16, 20 and 39-41 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office action rejects claims 1-5, 8, 9, 14-16, 20 and 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicks in view of Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 4,735,085). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 9

Independent claim 1 is distinguishable from Nicks because, to the extent Nicks discloses testing of a vehicle that is supported in an angled state, the angled vehicle in Nicks is (1) prevented from movement, and thus is not “biased toward movement” as recited in claim 1; and (2) not designed to move at highway speeds, rather it is a stationary oil derrick.

Because Nicks does not teach or suggest a vehicle support which biases a vehicle toward movement and the suggested application in Nicks is fundamentally different, claim 1 would not have been obvious. Dependent claims 2-5, 8 and 9 are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the respective additional features recited therein.

Therefore, claims 1-5, 8 and 9 should be allowed and the withdrawal of the rejection as to these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-16, 20 and 39-41

As amended, claim 14 recites that the inclined support “[biases] a vehicle to roll backwardly” (underlining added).

As amended, claim 39 includes the recitation of “the angle of incline being set for compensating static friction of the vehicle.”

To the extent Nicks discloses a wind tunnel which includes an inclined vehicle support portion, the inclined vehicle support in Nicks does not promote the biasing of a vehicle placed on the support to roll backwardly or for compensating static friction of a vehicle, rather it prevents the vehicle from movement in the backwardly direction. Therefore, Nicks does not teach or suggest an inclined vehicle support biasing a vehicle to roll backwardly as recited in claim 14, nor the supporting of a vehicle at an angle of incline which compensates static friction of the vehicle as recited in claim 39. Furthermore, none of the other applied references overcomes the deficiencies of Nicks.

Because the applied combination of references does not teach or suggest at least the claimed “inclined vehicle support biasing a vehicle to roll backwardly,” at least independent claim 14 would not have been obvious. Dependent claims 13-16 and 20 are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the respective additional features recited therein.

Furthermore, because the applied combination of references does not teach or suggest at least the claimed feature of “the angle of incline being set for compensating static friction of the vehicle,” at least independent claim 39 would not have been obvious. Dependent claims 40-41 are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the respective additional features recited therein.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of at least claims 14-16, 20 and 39-41 is respectfully requested.

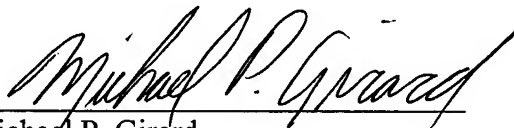
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the current claims are drawn to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By


Michael P. Girard
Registration No. 38,467

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 226-7391
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446